

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

IO-12 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 OMB-01 SR-02 ORM-03

DPW-01 CU-04 RSR-01 /148 W
----- 017542

O R 241120 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1012

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

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CGUSARSUPTHAI
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COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
DIA WASHDC
COMUSMACV
7 AF
7/13 AF
7 TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 3882

JOINT EMBASSY/DAO

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PFOR, MOPS, CB
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT - APRIL 24, 1973

GENERAL

1. AFTER MAKING AN INITIAL UNACCEPTABLE OFFER ON APRIL 17 FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN 11- MAN COUNCIL DOMINATED BY SOCIO- REPUBLICANS, MARSHAL LON NOL APPEARS TO HAVE YIELDED TO OPPOSITION DEMANDS FOR THE CREATION OF A FOUR- MAN HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL CONSISTING OF HIMSELF, SIRIK MATAK, IN TAM, AND CHNEG HENG WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE A COLLEGIAL PRESIDENCY WITH FULL POWERS OF DECISION BY CONSENSUS. ON APRIL 23 PARLIAMENT APPROVED THE ARRANGEMENT BUT LIMITED THE RIGHT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO RULE BY DECREE TO SIX MONTHS. FINAL OPPOSITION ACCEPTANCE IS NOT YET CERTAIN, AND THE DEAL HAS YET TO BE PUT TO PAPER. IN RESPONSE TO OPPOSITION INSISTENCE, THE GOVERNMENT RADIO ANNOUNCED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S YOUNGER BROTHER WOULD LEAVE FOR AN EXTENDED TOUR OF FRANCE AND THE U. S. BY THE END OF THE MONTH; HIS NOTORIOUS SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF COORDINATION WAS DISSOLVED. THE MILITARY SITUATION WORSENEED EARLY IN
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THE WEEK, WITH THE LOSS OF THE SMALL SEAPORT OF KEP AND FURTHER SHRINKAGE OF THE TAKEO DEFENSE PERIMETER, BUT APPEARS TO BE FIRING NOW. A RIVERINE CONVOY ARRIVED AT PHNOM PENH ON APRIL 23 WITH SOME DAMAGE AND CASUALTIES BUT NO MAJOR LOSS, BRINGING URGENTLY NEEDED POL PRODUCTS.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. AFTER FIRST REFUSING EVEN TO REPLY TO MARSHAL LON NOL' S APRIL 17 PROPOSAL OF AN 11- MAN HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL WITH CONSULTATIVE POWERS ONLY, THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MARCH 18 GROUP, IN TAM, CHENG HENG, AND SIRIK MATAK, MADE A COUNTERPROPOSAL OF A FOUR- MAN GROUP WITH FULL POWERS OF DECISION BY CONSENSUS (POSSIBLY MAJORITY VOTE) WHICH WAS FINALLY ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE BY THE MARSHAL. THE OPPOSITION LEADERS THEN INSISTED ON A RECESS OF PARLIAMENT FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD. THE CABINET RESIGNED AND IS IN CARETAKER STATUS PENDING A BROADENING OF THE GOVERNMENT.

3. THE KHMER PARLIAMENT ON APRIL 23 VOTED ITS APPROVAL OF THE CREATION OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL AND ENLARGEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND AUTHORIZED THE GOVERNMENT TO RULE BY DECREE FOR SIX MONTHS. THE PARLIAMENT ASSIGNED TO ITSELF THE ROLE OF AIDING REFUGEES AND WAR VICTIMS, SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND ORGANIZATION OF NEW LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS WHEN SECURITY CONDITIONS PERMIT. THIS WOULD SEEM TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF OPPOSITION LEADERS BUT THEIR ACCEPTANCE IS NOT YET CERTAIN.

4. BG LON NON IS MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR A VISIT TO FRANCE AND THE U. S. WHICH HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED IN THE LOCAL PRESS AND IN THE RADIO. AKP REPORTED THAT LON NON' S SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF COORDINATION HAS BEEN DISBANDED AS OF APRIL 18. LON NON' S ABSENCE FROM CAMBODIA AND THE REDUCTION OF HIS POLITICAL AND POLICE ACTIVITIES IS INTENDED TO FACILITATE THE FORMATION OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL. IN A PRESS INTERVIEW ON APRIL 23, HOWEVER, LON NON IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT RESIGN HIS MILITARY COMMAND.

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5. THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY EXPELLED NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBER DOUC RASY FOR ACCEPTING THE POST OF AMBASSADOR TO LONDON IN THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT AND INDICATED THAT IT WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN A NEW GOVERNMENT OR THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL. A DEMOCRATIC PARTY SPOKESMAN INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT THE EXPULSION OF IN TAM IS NOW ALSO UNDER CONSIDERATION.

6. PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS RETURNED TO SCHOOL ON APRIL 18 IN ACCORDANCE WITH A GOVERNMENT ORDER. UNIVERSITY STUDENTS DID NOT BEGIN CLASSES UNTIL APRIL 23 FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE STUDENT LEADERSHIP. ALTHOUGH SOME SECONDARY TEACHERS HAVE SO FAR REFUSED TO

TEACH (AND SOME ARE STILL UNDER ARREST, IN HIDING, OR
MISSING), THE SCHOOL SITUATION APPEARS TO BE RETURNING
TO NORMAL.

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

IO-12 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 OMB-01 SR-02 ORM-03

DPW-01 CU-04 RSR-01 /148 W
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O R 241120 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1013
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
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CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
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COMUSMACTHAI
DIA WASHDC
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7 AF
7/13 AF
7 TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 3882

JOINT EMBASSY/ DAO

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

7. THE KHMER NATIONAL RADIO ANNOUNCED THAT AMERICAN-
EDUCATED FORMER MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
UM SIM WILL BE NAMED AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON.

8. PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET- BOIGNY OF THE IVORY COAST IS
REPORTEDLY DECLINING TO ACCEPT THE CREDENTIALS OF NEWLY
ARRIVED GKR AMBASSADOR KOUN WICK, BECAUSE OF THE ALLEGEDLY
DETERIORATING POSITION OF THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT.

9. MARSHAL LON NOL' S SPECIAL ENVOY SAK SUTHSAKAN
ARRIVED IN JAKARTA APRIL 19 TO EXPLAIN THE SITUATION IN
CAMBODIA TO INDONESIAN LEADERS AND REQUEST CONTINUED
GOI SUPPORT.

GRUNK/ FUNK

10. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE BOMBER SO PHOTRA ARRIVED IN
PEKING APRIL 20. BROADCASTS CLAIM HE FLEW TO THE
LIBERATED ZONE AFTER THE BOMBING AND THEN FLEW ON TO
HAINAN.

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11. IN AN APRIL 21 INTERVIEW WITH LE MONDE, SIHANOUK
DECLARED THAT GRUNK CAN MORE EASILY COME TO AN UNDER-
STANDING WITH THE U. S. THAN THE USSR. THE PRINCE

EXPLAINED SOVIET ATTITUDES AS A REFLECTION OF THEIR HOSTILITY TOWARD CHINA AND TO SOVIET ARRANGEMENTS FOR COOPERATION WITH THE U. S. HE ALSO REITERATED THE INCREASINGLY PROPAGANDIZED THEME THAT THE U. S. IS ENTERING ON A THIRD INDOCHINA WAR AND THAT SAIGON AND BANGKOK FORCES WILL INVADE IN SUPPORT OF LON NOL.

12. SIHANOUK CONCLUDED HIS TRIP TO KOREA AND RETURNED TO PEKING.

ECONOMIC

13. RICE - ON APRIL 20 RICE STOCKS IN PHNOM PENH TOTALED 24,448 MT OR 54.3 DAYS SUPPLY. TWO VESSELS CARRYING APPROXIMATELY 17,745 MT OF PL 480 RICE ARRIVED IN KOMPONG SOM DURING THE WEEK AND A THIRD VESSEL WITH 8,608 MT IS EXPECTED SHORTLY.

AFTER CONSIDERABLE DELAY THE GKR IS ATTEMPTING TO LIMIT RICE DISTRIBUTION IN PHNOM PENH (INCLUDING RELEASES TO FANK) TO 450 TONS PER DAY. DISTRIBUTION, HOWEVER, HAS CONTINUED AT A HIGHER RATE PRIMARILY BECAUSE THE GKR HAS NOT YET FULLY IMPLEMENTED CONTROL ON RICE RELEASED. THE GKR ALSO INDICATED THAT THE PROVINCES REQUIRE 3,000 TO 4,000 TONS PER MONTH IN ADDITION TO PHNOM PENH DISTRIBUTION. THESE PROVINCIAL REQUIREMENTS (EXCLUSIVE OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES AND AIRDROPS) MUST BE ACCOMODATED WITHIN THE 450 MT PER DAY LEVEL. THE GKR HOPES TO DO THIS BY REDUCING THE FANK RICE ALLOCATION TO 3,000 MT PER MONTH.

MILITARY

15. MILITARY ACTIVITY FOCUSED THIS WEEK ON ROUTE 2 SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH. GROUND ATTACKS AND ABFS CONTINUED AT THE PROVINCE CAPITAL OF TAKEO. ALTHOUGH SUPPORTED BY HEAVY STRATEGIC AND TACAIR STRIKES, THE FANK PERIMETER CONTINUED TO DECREASE. ON 22 APRIL 191 REINFORCEMENTS
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FROM THE 367 TH BATTALION WERE HELILIFTED INTO TAKEO. THE FIRST ELEMENT TO ARRIVE DREW INTENSE MORTAR FIRE; THE SECOND ELEMENT LANDED WITHOUT TAKING FIRE, AS US TACAIR PASSED OVERHEAD.

16. FARTHER NORTH ON ROUTE 2, THE 51 ST BRIGADE'S FORWARD POSITIONS WERE OVERRUN ON 20 APRIL AS KI FORCES OCCUPIED THE TOWN OF SIEM REAP (KANDAL). ALTHOUGH THE 51 ST BDE ESTABLISHED DEFENSIVE POSITIONS SLIGHTLY TO THE NORTH, IT WAS PUSHED BACK AN ADDITIONAL KILOMETER ON 21 APRIL. KI FORCES THEN CLOSED TO WITHIN

2 KMS OF THE JUNCTION OF ROUTES 2 AND 201. ON 23 APRIL, HOWEVER, THE 15 TH BDE WAS ABLE TO RETAKE SIEM REAP. TEN KMS NORTH OF SIEM REAP ON 21 AND 22 APRIL, ENEMY FORCES LAUNCHED MIXED 75 MM AND 82 MM ABFS ON PHNOM PENH' S SUBURB OF TAHKMAU.

17. FARTHER WEST ALONG ROUTE 3, ENEMY FORCES CONDUCTED ABFS AGAINST TRAM KHNAR ON 16 APRIL AND FOLLOWED WITH A GROUND ATTACK THAT FORCED FANK TO WITHDRAW. HOWEVER, ON THE NIGHT OF 16 APRIL, FANK COUNTERATTACKED AND REGAINED CONTROL OF TRAM KHNAR.

18. ON 19 APRIL, CONVOYS SCHEDULED FOR ROUTE 4 WERE ABORTED DUE TO A REPORTED QTE ENEMY UNQTE MOVEMENT ACROSS THE ROUTE. THE PROBLEM TURNED OUT TO BE TWO FANK COMPANIES ABANDONING THEIR POSITIONS BECAUSE THEY HAD NOT BEEN PAID. ROUTE 4 IS OPEN.

19. IN THE KAMPOT/ KEP REGION, FANK FORCES SET UP A DEFENSIVE POSITION ACROSS ROUTE 16 WEST OF KEP FOLLOWING THE FALL OF THAT TOWN. KAMPOT HAS BEEN REINFORCED BY TWO BATTALIONS. ON 22 APRIL TWO BATTALION POSITIONS WERE ENCIRCLED ON ROUTE 1, NORTH OF NEAK LUONG, CLOSING THE ROAD. THE MEKONG CONVOY, CONSISTING OF SIX POL VESSELS AND TWO CARGO VESSELS, REACHED PHNOM PENH LATE ON 23 APRIL, HAVING RECEIVED TWO ABFS IN KHMER WATERS RESULTING IN ONE KILLED, BUT NO SHIPS WERE LOST. THE SUBURBAN TOWN OF TAKHMAU HAS BEEN TAKEN UNDER MORTAR AND RECOILLESS FIRE THREE TIMES THIS WEEK, BUT THE CAPITAL ITSELF REMAINS CALM.

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SWANK

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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